

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A fluid collection safety apparatus comprising:

5 a holder having a distal end, said distal end having a needle extending therefrom and including a pair of arms extending from said distal end, said arms defining a cavity therebetween; and

a shield attached to said holder and disposed within said cavity.

2. A fluid collection safety apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said shield is  
10 extensible to an extended position, said shield including at least one surface configured to maintain the shield in said extended position.

3. A fluid collection safety apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said shield includes a proximal portion that includes at least one retaining member configured to engage at least one of the arms to maintain the shield in an extended position.

15 4. A fluid collection safety apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said holder and said shield are monolithically formed.

5. The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said shield includes a proximal portion that includes protrusions configured to lock with the arms to maintain the shield in an extended position.

20 6. The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said shield includes a needle guide.

7. The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a bottom edge of a distal segment of the shield defines the needle guide.

8. The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said shield includes a plurality of ribs extending inwardly from at least one sidewall thereof to form a channel about said  
5 needle when said shield is in an extended position.

9. The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a sheath adapted to cover said needle and removably engage at least one of said arms.

10. A fluid collection safety apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a membrane mounted to said holder and configured to maintain sterility thereof.

10 11. A fluid collection safety apparatus comprising:  
  
a holder having a distal end, said distal end having a needle extending therefrom and including a pair of arms extending from said distal end, said arms defining a cavity therebetween; and

a shield attached to said holder and disposed within said cavity, said shield having a locking  
15 member disposed adjacent a proximal portion thereof for engaging said arms.

12. A fluid collection safety apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said shield includes a proximal segment hingedly attached to a distal segment.

13. A fluid collection safety apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said locking member engages said proximal segment to lock said shield in an extended position.

14. A fluid collection safety apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said proximal segment releasably engages said distal segment to maintain said shield in a retracted position.

15. The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said shield includes a needle guide.

5 16. The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a bottom edge of the distal segment defines a needle guide.

17. The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said shield includes a plurality of ribs extending inwardly from at least one sidewall thereof to form a channel about said needle when said shield is in an extended position.

10 18. The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 12 wherein a bottom surface is disposed across a distal part of said distal segment and wherein a proximal edge of said bottom surface comprises a needle guide.

19. The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a sheath adapted to cover said needle and removably engage at least one of said arms.

15 20. A fluid collection safety apparatus comprising:

a holder having a distal end, said distal end having a needle extending therefrom and including a pair of arms extending from said distal end, said arms defining a cavity therebetween; and

a shield having a proximal segment hingedly attached to a distal segment, said proximal segment hingedly attached to said holder, said proximal segment being disposed within said cavity and having opposing protrusions for engaging opposing catches of said arms;

5 a retention catch disposed with said segments that releasably retain said shield in a retracted position; and

a needle guide disposed with said shield.